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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,415	06/28/2001	Ryoji Yamagishi	83171	6871

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EXAMINER

LABAZE, EDWYN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/894,415

Applicant(s)

YAMAGISHI ET AL

Examiner

EDWYN LABAZE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-7 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Re claims 1-7 (page 17, lines 5, 6, 7, and every other lines with the word "coin-type"):
Substitute "coin-type" IC card with "coin-shaped".
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatented by Yonezawa, Tatsushi et al. (JP411019330A).

Re claim 1: Yonezawa et al. teaches a game machine and money collecting management system, which includes coin-shaped IC card distributing means provided in the coin-shaped IC card guide path 7 (col.4, lines 10+), for performing the processing of the reading data from the coin-shaped IC card and writing data to the coin-shaped IC card while temporary stopping the

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rolling movement of the coin-shaped IC card (col.4, lines 19+), and based on results of the processing, distributing the coin-shaped IC card to another coin-shaped IC card guide path disposed separately from the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path 8 (see fig. #5; and col.5, lines 14+).

Re claim 7: Yonezawa et al. discloses an apparatus, which further comprises coin diameter detection means provided at a card deposit slot formed at a starting end of the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path, for detecting whether or not diameter of a coin shaped object deposited in a card deposit slot has a specific size (col.5, lines 3+).

Re claim 8: Yonezawa et al. teaches an apparatus, which further comprises a positioning ring provided at a terminal end of the coin-shaped IC card return path, for positioning and supporting the coin-shaped IC object guided through the IC card return path 8 (see fig. #5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-4, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonezawa, Tatsushi et al. (JP411019330A) in view of Nishiumi et al. (U.S. 5,184,709).

The teachings of Yonezawa et al. have been discussed above, and further include a drive unit 5 (see fig. #1; and col.4, lines 12+).

Yonezawa et al. fails to disclose a shaft.

Nishiumi et al. teaches a coin selector, which includes a shaft turnably supported at one end (col.7, lines 40+).

In view of Nishiumi et al.'s teaching, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a shaft turnably supported at one end in the Yonezawa et al.'s teaching to direct/transport while positioning the coin-shaped IC card to the reader for data processing. Furthermore, the shaft which is coupled to drive unit and distributing unit, moves the shutter between the open and close positions and thus distributes the coin-shaped IC card to the collection path or the return path after processing results of the coin-shaped IC card by the reader/writer. Moreover, such modification would have been an obvious extension of the teaching of Yonezawa et al., and therefore an expedient.

Re claim 3: Yonezawa et al. as modified by Nishiumi et al. teaches an apparatus, wherein the coin-shaped IC card distributing means comprises a distributing lever 58 (col.7, line 35) a wall body that temporarily stops the coin-shaped IC card passing through the interior of the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path in a condition where the coin-shaped IC card is inserted through the gap of one distributing lever; and drive means for driving the distributing lever (see the discussions in as set forth in claim 2). Yonezawa et al. did not specifically disclose a wall that temporarily stops the coin-shaped IC card for data processing, but to one skilled in the art and from the gravity law when the coin-shaped IC card is inserted into the deposit slot a stopping mechanism must be included in order to read and/or write data processing onto the coin-shaped IC card. Therefore, it would have been obvious to integrate a stopping wall into the teaching of Yonezawa et al.

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Re claim 4: Yonezawa et al. as modified by Nishiumi et al. discloses an apparatus, wherein the distributing lever comprises a pair of guide plates or belts being arranged so as to form the gap for inserting the coin-shaped IC card therebetween, with inner circumferential surface of the guide plates being formed in curved shapes (col.5, lines 66+).

Re claim 5: Yonezawa et al. as modified by Nishiumi et al. teaches an apparatus, further comprises a turning position detection sensor provide at a position adjacent to the distributing lever, for detecting turning position of the distributing lever (col.12, lines 4-68).

Re claim 9: Yonezawa et al. as modified by Nishiumi et al. discloses an apparatus, further teaches a shutter provided in the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path, for opening and closing the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path based on detection signals of the coin diameter detection means (col.7, lines 8+).

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonezawa et al. (JP411019330A) in view of Hossfield et al. (U.S. 5,404,986).

The teachings of Yonezawa et al. have been discussed above.

Yonezawa et al. fails to disclose a collection path for the collecting coin-shaped IC card.

Hossfield et al. teaches a method and apparatus for discriminating and collecting coins, which includes a collection path for collecting coins (col.2, lines 7+).

In view of Hossfield et al. 's teaching, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate a collecting path into the teachings of Yonezawa et al. Furthermore, the collecting path will guide the coins to be collected by the establishment or the game machine after a data processing result from the reader, which indicates that the coin has no monetary value, and thus should not be in use unless new data is

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reloaded or encoded. In addition, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Yonezawa et al.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fisher et al. (U.S. 5,103,081) discloses an apparatus and method for reading data encoded on circular objects, such as gaming chips.

Freeman et al. (U.S. 6,029,891) teaches a magnetic pattern verification system.

Mikami et al. (U.S. 5,328,014) discloses a coin selector.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWYN LABAZE whose telephone number is (703) 305-5437. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

el
Edwyn Labaze
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
November 26, 2002


THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER